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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 22, 2008

Committees:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ranking Republican, Subcommittee on
International Organizations, Human
Rights and Oversight
Subcommittee on
Asia, the Pacific, and
the Global Environment

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics
Subcommittee on
Investigations and Oversight

H. Dale Hall
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive,
Arlington, VA 22203

**RE: Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project, Long Beach, CA – National Coastal Wetlands
Conservation Grant Program**

Dear Mr. Hall:

I urge your support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project in the City of Long Beach, California through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) Grant Program. The California Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Long Beach, has submitted a grant application for \$1,000,000 in funding support.

The Colorado Lagoon (Lagoon) is recognized as a local treasure because it is one of the last remaining coastal lagoons in Los Angeles County. The Lagoon is connected to Alamitos Bay and the Pacific Ocean through an underground box culvert that restricts tidal influence. Thousands of people from across the region visit the Lagoon for recreation (including swimming) and enjoyment of its natural estuarine habitat. In addition to its critical wetlands role and recreational features, the Lagoon serves to retain and convey storm water drainage. Over time, the condition of the Lagoon has degraded to the worst water quality in the City of Long Beach and poses a threat to the health of people and habitat. The Colorado Lagoon is in need of restoration.

The master improvement plan for the Lagoon includes a series of restoration components that benefit water and sediment quality, improve the current habitat areas, and enhance educational and recreational opportunities. With funding support through the NCWC Grant Program, the Conservancy and the City of Long Beach will be able to move forward with Phase 1 of the restoration effort.

Please contact me at my district office should you wish to discuss the Colorado Lagoon project with me. My telephone number is 714-960-6483.

Sincerely

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Cc: Councilmember Gary DeLong, City of Long Beach